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No. .....

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term 1980

DOMINIC PHILLIP BROOKLIER and SAMUEL ORLANDO SCIORTINO,

Petitioners,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

On Appeal from the United States Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI.

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vs.

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PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI.

Question Presented.

Whether the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit erred in its finding that the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment had not been violated where petitioners were prosecuted by the Federal Government for conspiracy to commit an extortion in 1974 and, thereafter, successively prosecuted in 1980 by the Federal Government for substantively committing the same extortion.

Parties to the Proceeding.

Petitioners:	DOMINIC PHILLIP BROOKLIER SAMUEL ORLANDO SCIORTINO
Respondent:	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Questions Presented i

Parties to the Proceeding i

Opinion Reference 1

Jurisdiction 1

Constitutional Provision and Statutes Involved 1

Statement of the Case 2

Reason for Granting the Writ 5

The Court of Appeals Erred When It Determined That the Double Jeopardy Clause Was Not Violated Because It Failed to Recognize That Additional Protection Beyond Blockburger Exists in This Successive Prosecution Situation 5

A. The United States Supreme Court Has Stated That Additional Protection Beyond Blockburger Does Exist in Successive Prosecution Situations 5

B. Petitioners Should Have Been Protected From the Recent Successive Prosecution Based on Ashe-Nielsen Double Jeopardy Protection .. 7

Conclusion 9

APPENDIX. Order dated Sept. 8, 1980 ... App. p. 1

Chapter 96—Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 2

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases	Page
Abney v. United States, 431 U.S. 651 (1977) 1,	3
Ashe v. Swenson, 397 U.S. 436, 90 S.Ct. 1189, 25 L.Ed.2d 469 (1970)	7
Blockburger v. United States, 284 U.S. 299, 52 S.Ct. 180, 76 L.Ed. 306 (1932) 5, 6,	7
Brown v. Ohio, 432 U.S. 161, 53 L.Ed.2d 187, 97 S.Ct. 2221 (1977) 5, 6, 7, 8,	9
Harris v. Oklahoma, 433 U.S. 682, 53 L.Ed.2d 187, 97 S.Ct. 2221 (1977)	9
Iannelli v. United States, 420 U.S. 770, 43 L.Ed.2d 616, 95 S.Ct. 1284 (1975)	6
Illinois v. Vitale, ... U.S. ...., 27 Cr. L. 3190, 80 Daily Journal D.A.R. 1707 (June 19, 1980)	8
Nielsen, In re, 131 U.S. 176, 9 S.Ct. 673, 33 L.Ed. 118 (1889) 7,	8
North Carolina v. Pearce, 395 U.S. 711, 23 L.Ed.2d 656, 89 S.Ct. 2072 (1969)	5
Sanabria v. United States, 98 S.Ct. 2170 (1978)	8
United States v. Jorn, 400 U.S. 470, 91 S.Ct. 547, 27 L.Ed.2d 543 (1970)	7
United States v. Snell, 592 F.2d 1083 (1979)	6
Whalen v. United States, 63 L.Ed.2d 715, 100 S.Ct. .... (1980) 6, 7,	8

Constitutions	
United States Constitution, Fifth Amendment 1,	2

Miscellaneous	
116 Congressional Record 35208 (Remarks of Rep. William F. Ryan, October 5, 1970)	9

Page

Rules

Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 18 i
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 37a 1

Statutes

United States Code, Title 18, Sec. 1510 4
United States Code, Title 18, Sec. 1951 4
United States Code, Title 18, Sec. 1961 1
United States Code, Title 18, Sec. 1962 1
United States Code, Title 18, Sec. 1962(c) i
United States Code, Title 18, Sec. 1962(d) 2
United States Code, Title 18, Sec. 1963 1
United States Code, Title 28, Sec. 1291 ..... 1, 3
United States Code, Title 28, Sec. 1294(1) 1

Opinion Reference.

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Order filed on September 8, 1980, in Case No. 80-1455 (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto).

Jurisdiction.

The United States District Court for the Central District of California had jurisdiction in this cause by virtue of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(c); Rule 18 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had jurisdiction under Title 28, United States Code, Sections 1291 and 1294(1), Rule 37(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and *Abney v. United States*, 431 U.S. 651 (1977).

Constitutional Provision and Statutes Involved.

Fifth Amendment to United States Constitution:

> "No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service and time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1961, 1962, and 1963 (as set out in the Appendix hereto).

Statement of the Case.

On July 9, 1974, in the Central District of California, the petitioners, DOMINIC PHILLIP BROOKLIER (hereinafter referred to as "BROOKLIER") and SAMUEL ORLANDO SCIORTINO (hereinafter referred to as "SCIORTINO"), were named in a seven count indictment charging them and others with conspiracy to violate the federal racketeering statute (RICO), extortion, fraud, and aiding and abetting. Count One of that indictment, more specifically, charged BROOKLIER and SCIORTINO with conspiracy through a pattern of racketeering activity to engage in the activities of an enterprise which affected interstate commerce to extort and illegally collect money, property, and gambling debts from persons engaged in legitimate and illegitimate enterprises in violation of Title 18, U.S.C., § 1962(d). Among the charged "acts of racketeering" set out in Count One, was the planning and commission of the extortion of a Los Angeles bookmaker by the name of Sam Farkas. On April 9, 1975, BROOKLIER and SCIORTINO, after substantial negotiations with the government, entered pleas of guilty to Count One of the indictment, and the remaining counts were dismissed. BROOKLIER and SCIORTINO were sentenced to prison terms in the custody of the Attorney General and have, in fact, served their sentences.

On February 20, 1979, BROOKLIER and SCIORTINO, and three others, were named in a five count indictment, which included a substantive RICO count. Count Two of said indictment alleged seven acts of racketeering activity, including the same Farkas extortion which BROOKLIER and SCIORTINO were previously convicted of conspiring to commit by their plea of guilty on April 9, 1975. On March 19, 1979, petitioners filed a motion to dismiss Count Two as violative of the 1975 plea agreement and the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment. Following the

filing of the government's response and oral argument, the Honorable Harry Pregerson denied the petitioners' motion on October 18, 1979. On October 26, 1979, petitioners, pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 1291, and the authority of *Abney v. United States,* 431 U.S. 651 (1977), filed an interlocutory appeal from the denial of their motion.

On March 18, 1980, prior to the date set for oral argument before the Ninth Circuit, the indictment underlying Count Two of the indictment was dismissed without prejudice due to grand jury irregularities. Thereafter, on April 21, 1980, the interlocutory appeal then pending before the Ninth Circuit (No. 79-1680) was remanded to the District Court and subsequently dismissed.

Petitioners were reindicted on May 15, 1980, with the indictment reading exactly as the indictment previously dismissed. On June 17, 1980, petitioners filed their motion to dismiss Count Two of the indictment on Double Jeopardy and breach of plea bargain grounds. The District Court denied petitioners' motion on June 30, 1980.

On July 9, 1980, petitioners filed their interlocutory notice of appeal in response to the June 30, 1980, denial of their Double Jeopardy dismissal motion relating to Count Two of the indictment before the District Court. On August 1, 1980, the government filed it "Motion to Expedite Oral Argument Date and Ruling", inasmuch as the trial on the merits of this matter was scheduled to commence on September 16, 1980. On August 21, 1980, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals granted the government's motion and set forth an expedited briefing schedule.

On September 8, 1980, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued its order in Case No. 80-1455, which said order is set forth in the Appendix hereto.

On September 22, 1980, petitioners filed their Petition for Rehearing and Suggestion for Rehearing En Banc with the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

On September 25, 1980, the petition for rehearing was denied by the Ninth Circuit and the mandate was issued. On October 16, 1980, a Ninth Circuit panel voted to reject the Suggestion for a Rehearing En Banc.

Trial on the underlying indictment commenced on September 30, 1980. On November 14, 1980, verdicts were returned. Both petitioners BROOKLIER and SCIORTINO were convicted on Count Two of the indictment which alleged the Farkas extortion as an act of racketeering. Petitioners were acquitted of Count Three of the indictment (extortion of Theodore Gaswirth in violation of 18 USC 1951) and Count Five of the indictment (obstruction of justice stemming from the killing of Frank Bompensiero in violation of 18 USC 1510). Sentencing in this matter is scheduled for January 12, 1980.

REASON FOR GRANTING THE WRIT.

THE COURT OF APPEALS ERRED WHEN IT DETERMINED THAT THE DOUBLE JEOPARDY CLAUSE WAS NOT VIOLATED BECAUSE IT FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT ADDITIONAL PROTECTION BEYOND BLOCKBURGER EXISTS IN THIS SUCCESSIVE PROSECUTION SITUATION.

The Farkas extortion should be considered the "same offense" for purposes of this Court invoking Double Jeopardy protection.

The primary deficiency of the Circuit Court's analysis lies in its failure to recognize that Double Jeopardy protection exists beyond that enunciated by this Court in *Blockburger v. United States,* 284 U.S. 299, 52 S.Ct. 180, 76 L.Ed. 306 (1932), in successive prosecution situations.[1]

A. The United States Supreme Court Has Stated That Additional Protection Beyond Blockburger Does Exist in Successive Prosecution Situations.

The instant case involves a successive prosecution. It has been stated that the Double Jeopardy Clause serves three primary purposes. First, it protects against a second prosecution for the same offense after an acquittal. Second, it protects against a second prosecution for the same offense after a conviction. Third, it protects against multiple punishments for the same offense. *North Carolina v. Pearce,* 395 U.S. 711, 717, 23 L.Ed.2d 656, 89 S.Ct. 2072 (1969); *Brown v. Ohio,* 432 U.S. 161, 165, 53 L.Ed.2d 187, 97 S.Ct. 2221 (1977). The scope of each of these protections turns upon the meaning of the words "same offense". Indeed, this Court has indicated that the meaning of this phrase may vary from context to context, so that two charges con-

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[1]The prosecution has always conceded that the 1974 Farkas extortion is factually the same extortion charged in the 1980 indictment.

sidered the same offense so as to preclude prosecution on one charged after an acquittal or conviction on the other need not be considered the same offense so as to bar separate punishments for each charge at a single proceeding. See *Brown v. Ohio, supra,* at 166, 167, n. 6, 53 L.Ed.2d 715, 97 S.Ct. 2221.

The Circuit Court ended its Double Jeopardy inquiry after application of the *Blockburger* test, which has primary significance in multiple charge, single prosecution settings. *Brown v. Ohio, supra,* at 166-167, n. 6, 53 L.Ed.2d 187, 97 S.Ct. 2221. While the *Blockburger* test is a valid starting point for analysis in successive prosecution situations, Petitioners contend that this Court has made it clear that inquiry must not end there.[2]

The *Blockburger* test is only a rule of statutory construction, not a constitutional talisman, *Whalen v. United States,* 63 L.Ed.2d 715, 100 S.Ct. .... (1980); *Iannelli v. United States,* 420 U.S. 770, 785, n. 17, 43 L.Ed.2d 616, 95 S.Ct. 1284 (1975).

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[2]*Brown v. Ohio, supra,* at 166-167, n. 6, 53 L.Ed.2d 187, 97 S.Ct. 2221. While *Brown* found the *Blockburger* test determinative in a successive prosecution situation [crime of theft of automobile barred after conviction of lesser included offense of joyriding.], the Court made it clear that Double Jeopardy protection beyond *Blockburger* exists in a successive prosecution situation. The Court stated that its failure to analyze *Brown* in light of this additional protection was a result of its lesser/greater included offense finding, not because Ashe-Neilsen protection did not exist. Cf., *United States v. Snell,* 592 F.2d 1083 (1979). Petitioners suggest the present case is a factual variant of *Snell.* In *Snell,* the successive prosecution took place immediately after remand by the Ninth Circuit and, therefore, did not constitute repetitive harassment. *Snell, supra* at 1085. In the present case, the Farkas extortion took place in 1973, Petitioners were indicted in 1974, convicted by plea in 1975 and served their prison sentences in 1975 and 1976. The most recent indictment alleging the Farkas extortion was not returned until May 15, 1980. Unlike *Snell,* repetitive harassment exists in the case at bar.

The Supreme Court has recognized that ". . . separate statutory crimes need not be identical—either in constituent elements or in actual proof—in order to be the same with in the meaning of the constitutional prohibition." *Brown v. Ohio,* 431 U.S. 161, 164, 53 L.Ed.2d 187, 97 S.Ct. 2221 (1977).[3] The fact, therefore, that the two statutes in question rest on different theoretical bases and could have been charged in separate counts of a single indictment is not dispositive of the issue. Where successive prosecutions are at stake, the guarantee serves ". . . a constitutional policy of finality for the defendant's benefit." *Brown, supra,* at 165, 53 L.Ed.2d 187, 97 S.Ct. 2221 (1977), quoting *United States v. Jorn,* 400 U.S. 470, 91 S.Ct. 547, 27 L.Ed.2d 543 (1970).

B. Petitioners Should Have Been Protected From the Recent Successive Prosecution Based on Ashe-Nielsen Double Jeopardy Protection.

Various factors argue for a determination that the present successive Farkas allegation should be viewed as the same

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[3]It is clear that the Supreme Court has given Double Jeopardy protection against successive prosecutions where an application of the *Blockburger* rule of statutory construction would not have. *In re Nielsen,* 131 U.S. 176, 9 S.Ct. 673, 33 L.Ed. 118 (1889); *Ashe v. Swenson,* 397 U.S. 436, 90 S.Ct. 1189, 25 L.Ed.2d 469 (1970). In commenting on these cases, the *Brown* court noted that the *Blockburger* test is not the only standard for determining whether successive prosecutions impermissively involve the same offense. Even if two offenses are sufficiently different to permit the imposition ot consecutive sentences, successive prosecutions will be barred in some circumstances where the second prosecution requires the relitigation of factual issues already resolved by the first. *Brown, supra,* at 166 and 167, n. 6, 97 S.Ct. 2221, 53 L.Ed.2d 187. Moreover, Justice Rehnquist, in his dissent in *Whalen, supra,* 63 L.Ed.2d 715, 100 S.Ct. .... , has suggested that the *Blockburger* test, although useful in identifying statutes that define greater and lesser included offenses in the traditional sense, is less satisfactory, and perhaps even misdirected, when applied to statutes defining "compound" and "predicate" offenses, a situation the Supreme Court has not as yet faced in a Double Jeopardy context.

offense so as to give meaning to the constitutional policy of finality.

Retrying petitioners for the Farkas extortion required the relitigation of factual issues resolved in the 1974 case. The factual basis for the plea in the 1974 case indicates that the Farkas extortion was completed. During the taking of the guilty plea, government counsel stated:

> ". . . At the direction of Mr. DeRosa and on occasion Mr. Milano, Sam Farkas was shaken down and he paid in excess of $10,000.00 directly to Mr. Milano . . ."

This is significant because it is clear that the recent successive prosecution of petitioners regarding Farkas required the relitigation of factual issues already resolved by the first in contravention of *Nielsen*. *Brown, supra*, at 166 and 167, n. 6, 97 S.Ct. 2221, 53 L.Ed.2d 187.[4]

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[4]Looking beyond the statutory language in successive prosecution situations for purposes of assessing and invoking Double Jeopardy protection is well accepted. In *Nielsen*, the Court held that "where . . . a person has been tried and convicted for a crime which has various incidents included in it, he cannot be a second time tried for one of those incidents without being twice put in jeopardy." *Nielsen, supra*, at 188, 9 S.Ct. 673, 33 L.Ed. 118. In *Whalen, supra*, 63 L.Ed.2d 715, 100 S.Ct. .... , defendant was convicted in the same proceeding of rape ar[illegible] first degree murder for killing the victim while perpetrating the rape. The government's position was that the offenses should not be considered the same for Double Jeopardy purposes so as to prevent cumulative sentencing. The government argued that the felony murder and rape are not the same offense since felony murder does not in all cases require proof of rape. The Court refused, however, to view this question in the abstract and found that in the facts of that particular case proof of rape was a necessary element of proof of the felony murder. In *Illinois v. Vitale*, ... U.S. .... , 27 Cr. L. 3190, 80 Daily Journal D.A.R. 1707 (June 19, 1980), the Court looked to the facts of the case and not to the statutes in the abstract, for purposes of determining a successive prosecution Double Jeopardy issue. Further, in *Sanabria v. United States*, 98 S.Ct. 2170, 2179 (1978), the Court when deciding a Double Jeopardy claim, noted: "The precise manner in which an indictment is drawn cannot be ignored because an important function of the indictment is to ensure that, 'in case any other proceedings are taken against [the defendant] for a similar offense, . . . the record [will] show with accuracy to what extent he may plead a former acquittal or conviction.' *Cochran v. United States*, 157 U.S. 286, 290, 15 S.Ct. 628, 630, 31 L.Ed. 704 (1895)." *Sanabria, supra*, at 2179.

Petitioners' position that the instant successive prosecution should be barred is supported by the only statement in the legislative history of the RICO statute dealing with previously litigated crimes.[5]

> "Here, the prosecution, *absent any prior conviction,* would have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt two illegal acts in order to establish the 'pattern'." 116 Cong. Rec. 35208
> (Remarks of Rep. William F. Ryan, October 5, 1970). [emphasis added].

If one were to accept the Circuit Court's analysis that in this successive prosecution situation the only issue to resolve is a recognition of the conspiracy/substantive dichotomy, the day following petitioners' plea in the 1974 case the government could have successively indicted them for a substantive RICO violation, alleging the precise same acts of racketeering as set forth in the conspiratorial RICO to which they pleaded. This preposterous scenario is not dealt with by the Court in its opinion, but is, nevertheless, no different than what the government did by the inclusion of the Farkas extortion in Count Two of the present case.

Conclusion.

It is submitted that this case provides the Court with an ideal opportunity to clarify the scope of the Double Jeopardy Clause in a successive prosecution situation.

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[5]It is, perhaps, noteworthy at this point to mention that both Justices Brennan and Marshall, in their concurring opinions in *Brown, supra,* at 170, 53 L.Ed.2d 1054, 97 S.Ct. 2912, appear to have taken a position which would ban the 1980 Farkas extortion prosecution because Farkas was not substantively prosecuted as one proceeding with the conspiratorial RICO in 1974. The same is true of their concurring opinion in *Harris v. Oklahoma,* 433 U.S. 682, 53 L.Ed.2d 187, 97 S.Ct. 2221 (1977).

For the foregoing reasons, this Petition for Writ of Certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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By DONALD B. MARKS,

Attorney for Petitioner
Samuel Orlando Sciortino.

APPENDIX.

Order.

United States Court of Appeals, for the Ninth Circuit.

United States of America, Plaintiff-Appellee, vs. Dominic Phillip Brooklier and Samuel Orlando Sciortino, Defendants-Appellants. No. 80-1455.

Filed: Sept. 8, 1980

Before: FLETCHER, ALARCON, and CANBY, Circuit Judges.

The district court's denial of the defendants' motion to dismiss is affirmed insofar as it rejects their double jeopardy defense. Under the test established in *United States v. Blockburger*, 284 U.S. 299 (1932), the defendants could have been charged in separate counts of a single indictment with both conspiracy to violate RICO and with substantive violations of RICO. *Iannelli v. United States*, 420 U.S. 770 (1975); *United States v. Rone*, 598 F.2d 564 (9th Cir. 1979), *cert. denied, sub nom. Little v. United States*, 100 S. Ct. 1345 (1980). The *Blockburger* test applied to post-conviction prosecutions. *Illinois v. Vitale*, 100 S. Ct. 2260 (1980); *Brown v. Ohio*, 432 U.S. 161 (1977); *United States v. Solano*, 605 F.2d 1141 (9th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 444 U.S. 1020 (1980); *United States v. Snell*, 592 F.2d 1083 (9th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 442 U.S. 944 (1979).

We express no opinion about the district court's denial of the defendant's motion to dismiss insofar as it rejects their contention that their plea bargain was breached. That issue is not raised in this interlocutory appeal.

An opinion may follow.

Chapter 96—Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations.

§ 1961. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(1) "racketeering activity" means (A) any act or threat involving murder, kidnaping, gambling, arson, robbery, bribery, extortion, or dealing in narcotic or other dangerous drugs, which is chargeable under State law and punishable by imprisonment for more than one year; (B) any act which is indictable under any of the following provisions of title 18, United States Code: Section 201 (relating to bribery), section 224 (relating to sports bribery), sections 471, 472, and 473, relating to counterfeiting), section 659 (relating to theft from interstate shipment) if the act indictable under section 659 is felonious, section 664 (relating to embezzlement from pension and welfare funds), sections 891-894 (relating to extortionate credit transactions), section 1084 (relating to the transmission of gambling information), section 1341 (relating to mail fraud), section 1343 (relating to wire fraud), section 1503 (relating to obstruction of justice), section 1510 (relating to obstruction of criminal investigations), section 1511 (relating to the obstruction of State or local law enforcement), section 1951 (relating to interference with commerce, robbery, or extortion), section 1952 (relating to racketeering), section 1953 (relating to interstate transportation of wagering paraphernalia), section 1954 (relating to unlawful welfare fund payments), section 1955 (relating to the prohibition of illegal gambling businesses), sections 2314 and 2315 (relating to interstate transportation of stolen property), sections 2341-2346 (relating to trafficking in contraband ciga-

rettes), sections 2421-24 (relating to white slave traffic), (C) any act which is indictable under title 29, United States Code, section 186 (dealing with restrictions on payments and loans to labor organizations) or section 501(c) (relating to embezzlement from union funds), or (D) any offense involving fraud connected with a case under title 11; fraud in the sale of securities, or the felonious manufacture, importation, receiving, concealment, buying, selling, or otherwise dealing in narcotic or other dangerous drugs, punishable under any law of the United States;

(2) ''State'' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, any political subdivision, or any department, agency, or instrumentality thereof;

(3) ''person'' includes any individual or entity capable of holding a legal or beneficial interest in property;

(4) ''enterprise'' includes any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, and any union or group of individuals associated in fact although not a legal entity;

(5) ''pattern of racketeering activity'' requires at least two acts of racketeering activity, one of which occurred after the effective date of this chapter and the last of which occurred within ten years (excluding any period of imprisonment) after the commission of a prior act of racketeering activity;

(6) ''unlawful debt'' means a debt (A) incurred or contracted in gambling activity which was in violation of the law of the United States, a State or political subdivision thereof, or which is unenforceable under

State or Federal law in whole or in part as to principal or interest because of the laws relating to usury, and (B) which was incurred in connection with the business of gambling in violation of the law of the United States, a State or political subdivision thereof, or the business of lending money or a thing of value at a rate usurious under State or Federal law, where the usurious rate is at least twice the enforceable rate;

(7) ''racketeering investigator'' means any attorney or investigator so designated by the Attorney General and charged with the duty of enforcing or carrying into effect this chapter;

(8) ''racketeering investigation'' means any inquiry conducted by any racketeering investigator for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person has been involved in any violation of this chapter or of any final order, judgment, or decree of any court of the United States, duly entered in any case or proceeding arising under this chapter;

(9) ''documentary material'' includes any book, paper, document, record, recording, or other material; and

(10) ''Attorney General'' includes the Attorney General of the United States, the Deputy Attorney General of the United States, any Assistant Attorney General of the United States, or any employee of the Department of Justice or any employee of any department or agency of the United States so designated by the Attorney General to carry out the powers conferred on the Attorney General by this chapter. Any department or agency so designated may use in investigations authorized by this chapter either the investigative pro-

visions of this chapter or the investigative power of such department or agency otherwise conferred by law.

Added Pub.L. 91-452, Title IX, § 901(a), Oct. 15, 1970, 84 Stat. 941, and amended Pub.L. 95-575, § 3(c), Nov. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2465; Pub.L. 95-598, Title III, § 314(g), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2677.

§ 1962. Prohibited activities

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person who has received any income derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of racketeering activity or through collection of an unlawful debt in which such person has participated as a principal within the meaning of section 2, title 18, United States Code, to use or invest, directly or indirectly, any part of such income, or the proceeds of such income, in acquisition of any interest in, or the establishment or operation of, any enterprise which is engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce. A purchase of securities on the open market for purposes of investment, and without the intention of controlling or participating in the control of the issuer, or of assisting another to do so, shall not be unlawful under this subsection if the securities of the issuer held by the purchaser, the members of his immediate family, and his or their accomplices in any pattern or racketeering activity or the collection of an unlawful debt after such purchase do not amount in the aggregate to one percent of the outstanding securities of any one class, and do not confer, either in law or in fact, the power to elect one or more directors of the issuer.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person through a pattern of racketeering activity or through collection of an unlawful debt to acquire or maintain, directly or indirectly, any interest in or control of any enterprise which is engaged in,

or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person employed by or associated with any enterprise engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce, to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of such enterprise's affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity or collection of unlawful debt.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to conspire to violate any of the provisions of subsections (a), (b), or (c) of this section.

Added Pub.L. 91-452, Title IX, § 901(a), Oct. 15, 1970, 84 Stat. 942.

§ 1963. Criminal penalties

(a) Whoever violates any provision of section 1962 of this chapter shall be fined not more that $25,000 or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both, and shall forfeit to the United States (1) any interest he has acquired or maintained in violation of section 1962, and (2) any interest in, security of, claim against, or property or contractual right of any kind affording a source of influence over, any enterprise which he has established, operated, controlled, conducted, or participated in the conduct of, in violation of section 1962.

(b) In any action brought by the United States under this section, the district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction to enter such restraining orders or prohibitions, or to take such other actions, including, but not limited to, the acceptance of satisfactory performance bonds, in connection with any property or other interest subject to forfeiture under this section, as it shall deem proper.

(c) Upon conviction of a person under this section, the court shall authorize the Attorney General to seize all property or other interest declared forfeited under this section upon such terms and conditions as the court shall deem proper. If a property right or other interest is not exercisable or transferable for value by the United States, it shall expire, and shall not revert to the convicted person. All provisions of law relating to the disposition of property, or the proceeds from the sale thereof, or the remission or mitigation of forfeitures for violation of the customs laws, and the compromise of claims and the award of compensation to informers in respect of such forfeitures shall apply to forfeitures incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, under the provisions of this section, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions hereof. Such duties as are imposed upon the collector of customs or any other person with respect to the disposition of property under the customs laws shall be performed under this chapter by the Attorney General. The United States shall dispose of all such property as soon as commercially feasible, making due provision for the rights of innocent persons.

Added Pub.L. 91-452, Title IX, § 901(a), Oct. 15, 1970, 84 Stat. 943.